



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



HONORING THOSE THAT MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

South Dakota's Fallen Hero Bridge program dedicates state bridges to South Dakotans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country or were classified as missing in action.

These men and women went to war and met their destiny in far off lands and battlefields. There is nothing more important for us to do than to ensure their sacrifices are remembered and their legacy lives on.

They need to be remembered as heroes who chose to serve and risk their lives. Heroes who were struck down in the pursuit of something bigger than themselves. Heroes that are forever deserving of our respect, admiration, and remembrance.

These brave warriors who fell in battle were often young and brimming with promise. They had a sense of energy, optimism, and hope.

For the greater good of our nation, they knowingly marched into harm's way. They put everything on the line to ensure our future, even though it meant endangering their own. The veterans we dedicate these bridges to did not just give us their lives, they gave us their futures. Most had more life ahead of them than behind them. Many did not experience their college graduation, their wedding, or the birth of their first child.

The men and women we honor through these bridges were American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen who sought service when times were troubled – when American values were challenged.

We are committed to preserving their memories. We ask everyone to participate in one of the 12 bridge dedications scheduled in 2023 in remembrance of South Dakota's fallen heroes.

To learn more about South Dakota's fallen heroes bridge dedication program, visit SDDVA's website.

Let us never stop educating the next generation about the price that has been paid for their freedom.

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SOUTH DAKOTA TO DEDICATE SIX FALLEN HERO BRIDGES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting six state bridge dedication ceremonies in late June and early July.

The first ceremony, in honor U.S. Army Private First Class Cy Kaiser, will be Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. (CT) at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Aberdeen (115 S. Roosevelt Street). The US HWY 12 Bridge south of Lake Mina will be dedicated to PFC Kaiser. While serving with the 104th Infantry Division, Kaiser died a hero's death November 21, 1944, when he was killed in action in Germany.

**PFC Cyril P. Kaiser
Memorial Bridge**

On June 24 the Little White River Bridge on US HWY 83 will be dedicated to U.S. Army Sergeant Philip J. Iyotte. The ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. (CT) at the

**SGT Philip J. Iyotte
Memorial Bridge**

Little White River

White River Community Events Center (501 3rd Street). Iyotte was a member of Company E, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, assigned under 8th Army. He was declared missing in action on February 9, 1951, when he was captured by Chinese forces during Operation Thunderbolt. He died September 10, 1951, while a prisoner. His body was returned to the U.S. after the war, but remained unidentified until 2017 when he was returned home to his family.

Two ceremonies will be held July 1. The first will be honoring U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer II Scott A. Saboe. His ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m. (CT) at the Lake Gospel Hall in Willow Lake (105 Lincoln Avenue). The James River Bridge on SD HWY 37, near Huron, will be dedicated to CWII Saboe. While in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Saboe's Blackhawk helicopter was shot by enemy gunfire and while calling for assistance, another helicopter from the 101st Airborne Division collided with his aircraft, killing 17 of the 22 soldiers on board November 15, 2003.

**CW2 Scott A. Saboe
Memorial Bridge**

James River

The second program will honor U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class Charles T. Langenfeld. That ceremony will be at 2:00 p.m. (CT) at the Redlin Art Center in Watertown (1200 33rd Street NE #310). The Willow Creek Bridge on East US HWY 212, near Watertown, will be dedicated to HM2 Langenfeld. Identified to family and friends as Charlie or Chuck, Langenfeld was known to those serving with him in Vietnam as "Doc". On April 17, 1968, after a 77-day siege, described as some of the worst fighting in the Vietnam conflict, a standdown was called. Having spent 77 days without a bath, Langenfeld and his troops left Hill 861a to bathe in a stream nearby. On their way back to their base camp, eight hours before Langenfeld was to leave for home, he was killed by enemy aerial mortar rounds.

**HM2 Charles T. Langenfeld
Memorial Bridge**

Willow Creek

(continued on next page)

BRIDGES (CONTINUED)

On Tuesday, July 4, the northbound I-229 Bridge over S. Minnesota Avenue in Sioux Falls will be dedicated to U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Robb Roling. The ceremony will be at 2:00 p.m. (CT) at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls (1600 W. Russell Street).

Roling was killed June 30, 2007, by small arms fire while deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula.

SSG Robb L Roling Memorial Bridge

On Friday, July 7, the Nelson Creek Bridge on SD HWY 50 will be dedicated to U.S. Army Specialist Five Samuel J. Jorgensen. The ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. (CT) at the Chamberlain Community Center (112 N. Main Street). In connection with ground operations against a hostile force on February 14, 1970, Jorgensen heroically distinguished himself while serving as a loader with Company M 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in the Republic of Vietnam. Troop C, with Specialist Jorgensen's platoon attached, was summoned to aid an infantry unit who had engaged a well-entrenched enemy force. Upon arrival at the scene of contact, the tanks began to assault the enemy bunkers. Jorgensen's tank was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. Jorgensen died of multiple wounds.

SP5 Samuel J Jorgensen Memorial Bridge

Nelson Creek

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Whitlock. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity for remembrance, reflection, and respect — for honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."

MWHF—A TRIP TO REMEMBER

(BY SHANNON PHILLIPS)

I received a large packet in the mail from Midwest Honor Flight. Within this large packet was the agenda for the training, banquet, and the flight to Washington DC. I did not know exactly what to expect on this Honor Flight and I must admit that I was somewhat nervous and anxious. There was a roster of the 83 veterans that were on the flight, to include one WWII Veteran, a hand-full of Korean Veterans and most of the roster was Vietnam Veterans to include one female.

I looked for my name to see who the veteran assigned to me was. Larry Sattler, Vietnam Veteran. It took me a few days to give him a call. When I did, I was a little nervous. He answered and I told him who I was. It was almost as if I could see the smile on his face.

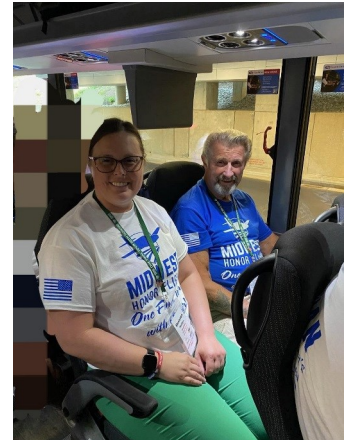
We met for the first time face-to-face at the banquet the night before the flight. The meal was delicious, and the speakers were amazing.

At o' dark thirty we loaded the shuttle buses to the airport. From the moment that we stepped on the bus, until the time we returned home; the veterans were top priority for their last tour. As I write this memoir, emotions of happiness and sad flood my mind. But what stays with me is the dedication of the Midwest Honor Flight team to absolutely ensure that every single moment of that last tour day was for the veterans.

As we approached the Vietnam Memorial I could see tears in Larry's eyes. I asked him if he had a loved one named on this wall. He said "yes, my battle buddy." As we talked, he could not recollect his battle buddy's name or birthday, or what his rank was when he was deceased. He had this memory of 1966-1967 in his mind. I was determined to keep asking the questions in great hopes that something would trigger a thought of remembrance. We walked up and down that long Vietnam Memorial wall...and suddenly.... HE REMEMBERED! We slow jogged to one of the Honor Flight crew members so we could plug this information into the search engine to give us specifics to where on the wall his name is placed. John Simons E4 deceased 1967.

Larry called his battle buddy "Simmy". Words cannot describe the emotions that Larry had when Simmy's name was rubbed off the wall for him to keep. I too, felt his emotions for him and remembering the soldiers that died during my tour. He carried this rub and was showing the fellow veterans on the tour that he found his long-lost battle buddy, that he has been thinking about all these years. It was very heart warming.

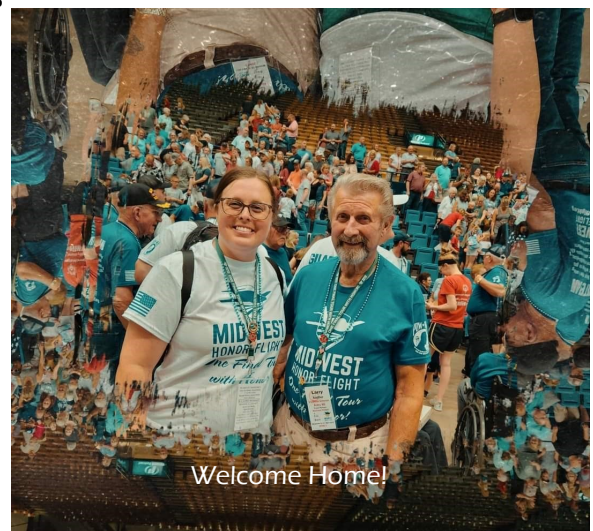
This trip will forever be a part of cherished life experiences. The conversations during visiting each memorial and in-between, I will forever remember. Larry and I have a bond now, that can not be broken.



Enroute to the Airport



Vietnam Memorial Wall



Welcome Home!

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

(BY JERI SMITH)

The May 31 Midwest Honor Flight “Elsie Honors Mission 15” is in the books and veterans, guardians and organizers have had some time to catch up on sleep and tell friends and family about the day...but the memories that were created will live on for all who took part. 83 veterans, with service from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, were each joined by family and guardians on a whirlwind tour of our nation’s war memorials and other sites in Washington, DC. Leading up to this wonderful day, I watched news coverage of prior flights and attended guardian training where we were told our one mission, one goal and one focus on the honor flight would be our veteran. As the flight day got closer, I anticipated the chance to take part in this once in a lifetime experience. I was a bit uncertain of the unknown...but looking back, I wasted my time worrying.

Midwest Honor Flight staff kept us updated in the months leading up to the flight, sending paperwork to complete and emails with various details of the event. In one of those emails, I received the name of the veteran I would soon be honored to join in this experience; Army veteran Edward Girten of Chamberlain who served during the Vietnam War.

The day of the trip started at 3:45am when we departed for the Sioux Falls airport. Once the flight landed, we were off and running! We saw the Iwo Jima Memorial, changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, the Air Force Memorial, the Navy Memorial, the WWII Memorial, the Korea Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial.

The Vietnam Wall was the most emotional site Edward and I visited on the day’s agenda; but a group of teenage students who were also at the memorial brightened Edward’s spirits with handshakes and countless “thank you” and “we appreciate your service” wishes.

As our time in DC was ending, we were shuttled back to the airport and the early portion of the flight home was a bit quieter than the morning trip...however, things changed when “mail call” was announced. At that time, each veteran was given a large packet of notes, cards and letters that thanked them for their service. Once in Sioux Falls, Honor

Flight participants were bussed into the Sioux Falls Arena

where citizens and family members waited to surprise the veterans with a hearty and patriotic “welcome home” to wrap up what had been a very special day! Edward and I parted ways about 10:15pm that evening.

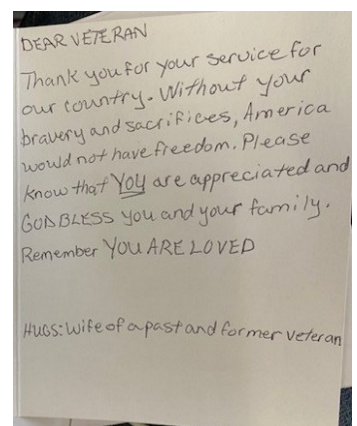
From start to finish, the whole experience was wonderful! Midwest Honor Flight staff are so organized! I was very impressed! I can’t say enough about the care given to all veterans, how seamlessly the whole day flowed, and the assistance provided to veterans throughout the day. I would say in closing, if you are even considering taking part in a future Midwest Honor Flight, I would wholeheartedly recommend it!



Jeri and Edward



Students thanking Edward



Note from Mail Call

CREATIVITY TAKES COURAGE

This week, residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans home were provided everything they needed to paint a masterpiece! Tami Showers conducted a “paint to canvas party” for them.



Painting is fun, creative, relaxing, therapeutic, and a stress reliever, and is only one of numerous events offered.

We are fortunate to have Laura Inman as our activities director at the Home. Laura coordinates group events, field trips, and recreational activities to keep our residents active and happy. She ensures that residents enjoy an active lifestyle with a full schedule of activities based on their personal needs.



BLACK HILLS VETERANS MARCH

AND MARATHON
SEPTEMBER 13-16TH



20
YEARS

EVENTS:

110-Mile Endurance
26.2 Mile Walk/Run/Relay
16-Mile Walk/Run/Relay

DIVISIONS:

Military Team or Solo
Civilian Team or Solo
Heavy Pack Challenge

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION GO TO

[HTTPS://BLACKHILLSVETERANMARCH.ORG](https://blackhillsveteranmarch.org)

VIRTUAL VETERANS MARCH

AND MARATHON
SEPTEMBER 1-16TH



20
YEARS

EVENTS:

26.2 Mile Walk/Run/March

It's all YOU!!

Can be completed anytime between
September 1-16th, but it must be done
all *in ONEDAY*.

To submit results, take a screenshot from
your favorite activity tracker and send
them to

theBHVMM@gmail.com

along with the mailing address we should
send your swag to.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION GO TO

[HTTPS://BLACKHILLSVETERANSMARCH.ORG](https://blackhillsveteransmarch.org)

SDHC SPONSORS VETERANS STORY CONTEST

The South Dakota Humanities Council is sponsoring a storytelling contest for veterans that will culminate with an awards ceremony at the South Dakota Festival of Books, Sept. 22-24 in Deadwood.

August 9 is the deadline for written submissions for the Veterans Story Contest, which is open to veterans or current service members of any branch of the United States military currently living in South Dakota.

Submissions should consist of new, unpublished material addressing the military experience, such as recovery or lessons learned. Individuals may submit up to 1,500 written words in any format — poetry, prose, fiction, creative nonfiction, etc. There is a limit of one submission per person. Please include a cover page with name, address, phone, email and dates and branch of service.

Three finalists will be invited to the South Dakota Festival of Books in Brookings for a reading of their work. U.S. Army veteran and 2023 Festival author Brian Turner will announce the winners and hold a workshop specifically for veterans.

Turner served seven years in the U.S. Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999-2000 with the 10th Mountain Division. In his poetry and prose, Turner conveys both elegant and devastating portraits of what it means to be a soldier and a human being.

Turner's memoir, "My Life as a Foreign Country," made Powell's Best Nonfiction of 2014 list. The book follows the experience of one soldier in one recent war, then expands to combine recollection and imagination, leaping centuries and continents to seek parallels in the histories of other men. The result is an opportunity to enter the head of a man still stalked by war, to experience conflict with new definition and lasting effect.

Benjamin Busch called the memoir a "brilliant fever dream of war's surreality, its lastingness, its place in families and in the fate of nations. Each sentence," he said, "has been carefully measured, weighed with loss and vitality, the hard-earned language of a survivor who has seen the world destroyed and written it back to life."

Turner's poetry books include "Here, Bullet" and "Phantom Noise," with three additional collections coming out in 2023: "The Wild Delight of Wild Things," "The Goodbye World Poem" and "The Dead Peasant's Handbook."

The South Dakota Humanities Council, a statewide humanities organization that hosts the annual Festival, will collaborate with the finalists to support their attendance at the Festival Sept. 22-24 in Deadwood. Writers do not need to attend the festival to submit work. A representative can read the author's work on the finalist's behalf.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Stories should be submitted to: Colby Christensen (colby@sdhumanities.org), 1215 Trail Ridge Rd Ste A, Brookings, SD 57006.

For more information or questions, contact SDHC at 605-688-6113.



THE VETERANS STORY *Contest*

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BRIAN TURNER
U.S. Army veteran



Stories should be submitted to:
Colby Christensen
colby@sdhumanities.org
1215 Trail Ridge Rd Ste A
Brookings, SD 57006
For more information,
contact SDHC at 605-688-6113

ANNOUNCING THE 3RD ANNUAL



HONOR RIDE

MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

"RIDING TO KEEP THEM FLYING"



Sunday, June 25, 2023 | 2:30 PM

Registration begins at 1:00 PM at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance. Honor a Veteran you know and ride to raise funds for Midwest Honor Flight. Ride includes a slow salute past the Sioux Falls VA Hospital before a ceremony at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

MORE INFORMATION:

MIDWESTHONORFLIGHT.ORG/RIDE

All proceeds from this event go directly towards future Honor Flights and more importantly, our local Veterans.

MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

EVERYBODY'S ELVIS

\$25

in advance

\$30 at the door



featuring:

- SURFIN' SAFARI
- JOHN MOGEN
- CHUCK CASE
- DAWN NELSON
- CHRIS BORCHARDT
- PAMELA LOU HOFFMAN
- DAVE VANDERLINDE
- BRENT GROSVENOR
- RICK BURHARDT
- CLAYTON DELAINE
- KENNY YOUNG
- RICH SZAMEIT
- ANNA MEYER
- JON TEMPO
- ED JENSEN

OCTOBER 21 @ 7 PM

Proceeds to Benefit:



**MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT**

Tickets and More Info:

midwesthonorflight.org/elvis

**SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY
HERITAGE ALLIANCE
1600 W RUSSEL ST | SIOUX FALLS**

SPONSORED BY:

the **ALLIANCE**
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.



CorTrust Mortgage



DOG DAYS
Hotel & Day Camp

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 8—11—American Legion State Conference—Oacoma
Jun 9—Veterans Stand Down—Pine Ridge Pow Wow Grounds—Pine Ridge—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
Jun 14—Chick-Fil-A Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser
Jun 15-18—VFW State Convention—(4-H Grounds)—Mitchell
Jun 19—State Offices Closed
Jun 22—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PFC Cy Kaiser—U.S. Army Reserve Center—(115 S. Roosevelt Street)—Aberdeen—1:30 pm (CT)
Jun 24 —SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SGT Philip Iyotte—Community Events Center—(501 3rd Street)—White River—10:00 am (CT)
Jun 25—3rd Annual Midwest Honor Flight Honor Ride—Sioux Falls—(starts at the Alliance and ends at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery)—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 1—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—CW2 Scott A. Saboe—Lake Gospel Hall—(105 Lincoln Avenue)—Willow Lake—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 1—Veterans for Veterans Poker Run—The Depot—(210 S. Main Street)—Mitchell—11:00 am (CT)
Jul 1—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—HM2 Charles T. Langenfeld—Redlin Art Center—(1200 33rd Street NE #310)—Watertown—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 4—State Offices Closed
Jul 4—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SSG Robb Rolwing—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 7—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SP5 Samuel J. Jorgensen—Community Center—(112 N. Main Street)—Chamberlain—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 17—Tee it Up for the Troops—Arrowhead Country Club—Rapid City—8:00 am (MT)
Jul 19—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Sisseton—9:00 am (CT)
Jul 20—Rosebud Sioux Tribe Veterans Stand Down—Sinte Gleska University—(101 Antelope Circle)—Mission—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 28-29—"Last Out" production—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
Jul 29-30—Sioux Falls Air Show
Jul 29—Korean War/Defense Veterans Appreciation Day—Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center—(2810 22nd Avenue S)—Brookings—9:00 am to 3:00 pm (CT)
Aug 10-11—South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference—Sioux Falls Convention Center
Aug 19—SFVAHCS Show and Shine
Aug 26—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LTC Gordon J. Lippman—Hill City—1:30 pm (MT)
Aug 28—Barrel House Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight
Aug 31—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
Aug 31—Sept 4—SD State Fair
Sep 4—State Offices Closed
Sep 5—7—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
Sep 13-16—Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon
Sep 16—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LT Peter H. Monfore—Community Hall—(605 8th Street)—Springfield—2:00 pm (CT)
Sep 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Rapid City

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 7—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—WO1 Roger S. Cameron—Community Building—(311 W. Main)—Pierpont—1:30 pm (CT)
Oct 7—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
Oct 9—State Offices Closed
Oct 14—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Thomas M. Martin—Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Oct 21—Elvis Night/50's Dance Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
Nov 4—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
Nov 10—State Offices Closed
Nov 13—Barrel House Day of Giving for SDVC Wreaths Across America
Nov 15—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Sioux Falls
Nov 23—State Offices Closed
Dec 16—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 25—State Offices Closed

2024 Events

Jan 10—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Pierre
Feb 16—18—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Deadwood
Jun 20—23—American Legion State Conference—Pierre
Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

2025 Events

Feb 14—16—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 19—22—American Legion State Conference—Huron
Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

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